Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2185 INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, MX, SP

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA DENIES MEXICAN DELEGATION IN SPAIN

REF: 75 MADRID 9075

1. ON JAN 2, MEXICAN PRESS CARRIED MADRID WIRESERVICE REPORTS INDICATING THAT A MEXICAN DELEGATION WAS IN SPAIN TO NEGOTIATE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THE DELEGATION REPORTEDLY INCLUDES ENRIQUE RUIZ GARCIA, A WELL-KNOWN COLUMNIST WHO WRITES UNDER THE PEN NAME "HERNANDO PACHECO" AND REPUTEDLY HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH ECHEVERRIA ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS.

- 2. DURING THE COURSE OF A PRESS INTERVIEW ON JAN 2, ECHEVERRIA WAS ASKED ABOUT THE ABOVE REPORTS FROM SPAIN AND WHETHER HE HAD SENT ANY MEXICAN OFFICIALS THERE TO OBSERVE PROGRESS TOWARD "DEMONCRATIZATION". HE REPLIED: "I HAVE NOT SENT ANYONE. MOREOVER, WHAT HAPPENS IN SPAIN IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD EVERY DAY. WE DO NOT HAVE TO SEND ANYONE..."
- 3. DURING THIS SAME INTERVIEW, ECHEVERRIA SET FORTH THE CONDITIONS FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS..."AND WHEN THERE ARE POLITICAL PARTIES, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRISONERS (PRESUMABLY HE IS REFERRING ONLY TO POLITICAL

PRISONERS) ARE FREED FROM THE JAILS, AND THERE IS LIBERTY IN SPAIN...WHEN THIS OCCURS WHEN THE EXILES CAN ALSO RETURN, WE WILL HAVE RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE SOON. IT IS NOT UP TO US TO PUSH THIS PROCESS, BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL ABOUT IT." COMMENT: FROM THE LONG LIST OF CONDITIONS HE SETS FORTH, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ECHEVERIA IS NOT ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END COMMENT.

- 4. WITH RESPECT TO REPORTS ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT BY ECHEVERRIA TO SPAIN BEFORE HE LEAVES OFFICE DEC 1, WE AGREE WITH MADRID COLUMNIST (REFTEL) THAT THIS IS VERY IMPROBABLE. MOREOVER, ECHEVERRIA ANNOUNCED ON JAN 1 THAT HE HAS NO PLANS FOR ANY FOREIGN TRAVEL.
- 5. DURING A SPEECH ON JAN 6 BEFORE THE EXILED SPANISH REPUBLICANS IN MEXICO CITY, PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO AFFIRMED HIS LOYALTY TO THE REPUBLICANS AND THE PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE PREVENTED MEXICO FROM HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE MADRID GOVERNMENT. ECHOING ECHEVERRIA, LOPEZ PORTILLO SAID THAT RELATIONS CAN ONLY BE NORMALIZED WHEN "THE SPANISH DEMOCRACY AND THE MEXICAN DEMOCRACY ARE JOINED ANEW BY THE APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH THEY HAVE HAD IN COMMON FOR CENTURIES" AND "WHEN THE SPANIARDS WHO LEFT SPAIN UNDER PERSECUTION CAN AFFIRM: WE RETURN TO SPAIN WITH DIGNITY".

COMMENT: LOPEZ PORTILLO HAS APPARENTLY EMBRACED ECHEVERRIA POLICY AND IN SO DOING, HAS SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED HIS ROOM FOR MANUEVERING VIS-A-VIS SPAIN. END COMMENT. JOVA

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